

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR

When Haley Barbour ran for Governor in 2003, he offered a new path for Mississippi. He identified problems and offered specific solutions for:

- Creating More and Better Jobs
- Improving Education
- A Healthy Mississippi
- Safer Communities
- Stronger Families

On November 4, 2003, the Yazoo City native was elected Mississippi's 63rd Governor in the largest turnout in a gubernatorial election in state history.

Governor Barbour's term has been highlighted by:

- The most comprehensive tort reform in the nation, restoring balance for plaintiffs and defendants in the state's civil justice system;
- "Momentum Mississippi," an update to the state's long-range economic development strategy. Mississippi has now seen the largest increase in net new jobs since 1999 and the largest increase in personal income since 1998.
- "UpGrade," across-the-board reforms in public education. Adopted in the 2006 legislative session, the new law rewards teacher and school performance, reduces state bureaucracy and strengthens discipline. Also, during his term state funding has increased for public education from K-12 through community colleges, and the state's universities and colleges.
- Saving the Medicaid program for truly needy recipients, emphasizing preventative care and implementing the strongest anti-fraud plan in the history of Mississippi Medicaid.
- Tougher measures to fight the scourge of illegal drugs; drug arrests are up 73 percent.
- Protecting the unborn. The Governor initiated and the Legislature has passed six pro-life laws that make Mississippi "the safest place in America for an unborn child," according to a national right-to-life organization.

In the face of the worst natural disaster in American history – Hurricane Katrina, which struck on August 29, 2005 – Governor Barbour took the lead early on helping Mississippians rebuild and recover. He and First Lady Marsha Barbour, his wife of 35 years, have worked tirelessly and innovatively with local, state and national leadership to tap into many resources of assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

He created the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal to develop a broad vision for opportunities to help South Mississippi rebuild bigger and better than ever. The Commission now has been folded into the Office of the Governor, where its work continues.

For his leadership after Katrina, Governor Barbour was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Freedom Award, which is presented by the American Legislative Exchange Council to a nationally recognized public sector leader who has an extraordinary record of successfully advancing the Jeffersonian principles of limited government, free markets, individual liberty, and federalism.

Personally and professionally, Governor Barbour:

- Prior to his election headed Barbour Griffith and Rogers, one of the nation's top lobbying firms.
- Served two terms as Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and advised President Ronald Reagan as Director of the White House Office of Political Affairs.
- Received his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1973.
- With the First Lady welcomed the birth of their first grandchild, Adyn Sterling Barbour, on December 22, 2005.

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